

## **Indiana Extended Benefits Frequently Asked Questions**

*(Updated June 4, 2009)*

### **What are Indiana Extended Benefits (EB)?**

EB provides eligible Hoosiers up to 20 weeks of additional unemployment insurance benefits.

### **Who is eligible for EB?**

This program is available to Hoosiers who exhausted their state and federal unemployment benefits on or after March 15, 2009. Hoosiers who might qualify for this program will receive a letter from DWD with additional instructions.

### **Does my UI Benefit End Date still determine my eligibility?**

Not anymore. Due to House Enrolled Act 1379 (HEA 1379), a claimant only needs to exhaust their state UI and Federal EUC (Emergency Unemployment Compensation) on or after March 15, 2009.

### **I was previously ineligible, but now qualify for EB. When will I be notified?**

DWD will notify Hoosiers who will newly qualify for extended benefits via letter mailed on May 21, 2009. Hoosiers must bring that letter to their WorkOne to apply for EB

### **I was previously ineligible, but now qualify for EB. Will I be paid for those previous weeks?**

Due to the strict requirements of the extended benefits program, newly eligible Hoosiers will not be paid for prior weeks of unemployment, but they can receive up to 20 weeks of benefits moving forward.

### **How do I file a claim for EB?**

Once you receive a letter, you should bring that letter and a photo ID to your nearest [WorkOne Center](#). You must apply in person for this program. Applications will only be accepted Wednesday – Friday (Wednesday-Saturday in South Bend and Elkhart).

### **Will I have to file my claim in person each week?**

Only the initial application must be made in person. Weekly vouchers will be filed online through Indiana's unemployment filing system. No paper vouchers are available for EB.

### **How long will it take to receive EB?**

Similar to when you filed your first unemployment application, it will take approximately 21 days to process your initial EB claim. Once approved, your online weekly vouchers will be paid in 1-2 days.

### **Will I continue to receive the \$25 weekly increase?**

You will receive the \$25 increase for each eligible voucher filed through the end of the year.

### **Are the work search requirements different for EB?**

You must apply for three jobs per week and maintain a work search log, looking for work no longer qualifies. Failure to apply for three jobs per week will disqualify you from EB and you will lose all future EB benefits. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has already disqualified several hundred Hoosiers for failing to apply for work or accept a job offer.

### **What information should I keep on my work search log?**

Your work search log should include:

- Date of application
- Name, address, phone number of company
- Method of application (in person, online, via mail).

**Must I accept any job offers while receiving EB?**

You cannot refuse ANY work you can physically perform that pays at or above minimum wage. Any work refusal will disqualify you from EB and you will lose all future EB benefits.

**Must I accept any job if I am a union member, have a return to work date, or have a work search waiver?**

There are no work search waivers for EB. Any EB recipient who refuses any offer of work will lose their benefits.

**When will EB end?**

EB will remain active and provide up to 20 weeks of benefits through December 31, 2009 provided Indiana's three-month average seasonally-adjusted total unemployment rate remains above 8%. Indiana EB will provide up to 13 weeks of benefits through the end of the year provided Indiana's three-month average seasonally-adjusted total unemployment rate remains between 6.5% and 8%. EB will automatically trigger off if the three-month average total unemployment rate drops below 6.5% before the end of the year.

**What happens to Extended Benefits next year?**

The changes to Indiana EB will expire on December 31, 2009. On January 1, 2010 Indiana EB will return to its standard trigger mechanism, 13-week average insured unemployment rate of 5%, and providing up to 13 weeks of benefits.

**What happens when EB is deactivated?**

When EB automatically turns-off then all payments stop, even if you only received one week but qualified for 20 weeks of benefits.

**I have an Indiana claim, but I live in another state. Do I qualify for EB?**

Interstate claimants can receive EB if your state of residence and Indiana are both on EB. If not, then you are eligible to receive two weeks of EB benefits. 27 other states and Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are currently on EB (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin)